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fou are here: Home / Farm Bill Porums / Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments

Farm Bill Forums

Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments

In the coming months, senior officials of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will hold a series of public forums at various U.S. locations to obtain public input for the development of the 2007 Farm Bill. The dates, locations, and times of the forums will be announced in USDA press releases (http://www.usda.gov).

The 2002 Farm Bill (officially entitled the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002) authorizes many USDA programs, including farm price and income support programs. New legislation will need to be enacted prior to the bill's expiration in 2007.

USDA intends to develop recommendations for the new, farm bill and believes that public input is essential to this process. To comment, please respond to the questions below by December 30, 2005.

NOTE: All comments, including names and addresses, provided by respondents are a matter of public record. Comments may be viewed at the Department of Agriculture. To make arrangements to view comments, please contact the Office of the Executive Secretariat, Room 116A, Jamle L. Whitten Faderal Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-3355.

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USDA is seeking public comments on the following farm policy considerations:

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Question 1: The challenges facing new farmers and ranchers as they enter agriculture.

Some observers note that while farm policy has served agriculture and the country well in the past, there are "unintended consequences" that should be addressed, such as the capitalization of program benefits into land prices. These

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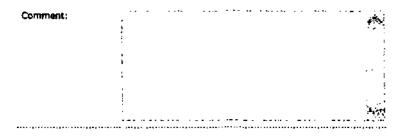
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cleaner water and air. Such an approach may be consistent with future World Trade Organization obligations on domestic support to agriculture, while also expanding farm programs to extend more broadly across agriculture, including private forest lands.

How can farm policy best achieve conservation and environmental goals?



Question 5: The enhancement of rural economic growth.

Farming and rural America once were almost synonymous. Over the years, the demographic and economic characteristics of rural areas have changed, as has farming's role in the rural economy. This raises the issue of whether more Government attention should be focused on investing in the Infrastructure in rural America (for example, investing in new technologies).

How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?



Question 6: The apportunities to expand agricultural products, markets, and research.

Changes in farm and market structure over past decades have led to suggestions that farm policy could be more flexible by enabling greater support for a broader range of activities helpful to agriculture market expansion. Examples are: attention to product quality and new attributes; organic and specialty crops; value-added products, including renewable energy and bioproducts and new uses for farm products generally; expanded basic and applied research; domestic and foreign market development; and similar activities.

How should agricultural product development, marketing and research-related issues be addressed in the next farm bill?

There are many capped landfills (2000 acres in Wisconsin) which are non productive. Fear of root penetration of the caps has premented any productive plantings. I believe these fears are not based on science. (oak trees are being planted on the Fresh Kills landfill in New York State) I believe these landfills could be planted in a crop like Hazelnuts. The Arbor Day Foundation is promoter than a crop as an agricultural crop.

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I think that hzels should be investigated as a way to put these acres into productive use.

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References

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Applied Ecological Services Inc.

17921 Smith Road

Broadhead, WI 53520

Arbor Day Foundation Lincoln, Nebräska

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